II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing discomfort, unpleasant symptons, irritation, or~~ pain associated with a tissue, the method comprising contacting the tissue with a pharmaceutical, dermatological or cosmetic composition or a medical device comprising a ~~therapeutically effective an amount of a~~ biocompatible polymer corresponding to one of the formulas selected from the group consisting of ~~following general formula (I)~~:

AaXxYy (I),
AaXx (Ia)
AaYy (Ib), and
AaYyXx (Ic),

in which:

A ~~represents~~ comprises a monomer that is glucose,

X represents a RCOOR' group,

Y represents an O or N-sulphonate group bound to A_a

R represents ~~an aliphatic~~ a hydrocarbon chain, possibly branched and/or unsaturated and which may contain one or more aromatic rings and R' represents one hydrogen atom or one cation,

a represents the number of monomers,

x represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by the X groups, and x is between approximately 20 and 150%.

y represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by Y groups, and y is between approximately 30 and 150%;

wherein the biocompatible polymer is in an amount effective to treat pain and wherein the method does not treat the condition that causes the pain.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which ~~the~~ A further comprises monomers, identical or different, [[are]] selected from the group consisting of: ~~among~~ sugars, esters, alcohols, amino acids, nucleotides, nucleic acids or proteins.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mass of the polymers of formula (I) is greater than ~~approximately~~ 2000 daltons.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the radical R is a linear or branched alkyl, allyl or aryl group.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible polymer comprises functional chemical groups Z, different from X and Y and capable of bestowing additional biological or physical and chemical properties on ~~the~~ said polymers, wherein said Z groups are identical or different and are amino acids, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, ceramides or derivatives thereof, or nucleotide sequences.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the rate of substitution of all the A monomers by Z groups represented by "z" is between 0 and 50%.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Z group is a substance capable of bestowing on the said polymers improved solubility or lipophilia.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Z groups are identical or different and are therapeutic agents.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device are intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains and/or itching~~ pain is induced by lesions or irritations in an individual in an area in contact with an outside medium.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the lesions or irritations are selected among skin lesions, corneal lesions, lesions of the eardrum, lesions of the digestive tract, lesions of the respiratory tract such as lesions of the tissues of the airways and lungs and lesions of the urogenital tract.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains~~ pain is in the tendons and/or cartilages and/or the joints and/or the back and/or the muscles and in general, following impact and/or diffuse pains in the abdomen or in the head.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising contacting the skin with a cosmetic composition for ~~prevention and relief of tingling, irritation, itching or pulling~~ treatment of pain associated with the skin, cornea or mucosae.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat~~

- the pain ~~and/or pruritus~~ is induced by
  - _____* deep skin burns;
  - _____* scars and cicatricial tissue;
  - _____* ulcers of the skin and/or the mucosae and/or the cornea;
  - _____* peripheral and/or degenerative neuropathies;
  - _____* cold sores;
  - _____* chapping;
  - _____* hyperkeratinisation of the skin, psoriasis, eczema or herpes zoster;
  - _____* a surgical operation;
  - _____* radiotherapy;
  - _____* a lesion of the eardrum;
  - _____* asthma and/or rhinitis and/or bronchial obstruction;
  - _____* aphthous ulcers and/or sore throats and/or dental pains; or

_____* arthroses or arthritis~~;~~

~~irritation of the mucosae and/or the skin; or~~

~~chronic diseases characterised by destruction and/or permanent remodelling of the extracellular matrix~~.

17. (Cancelled).